

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00802 211643Z
ACTION SS-25

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O 211615Z APR 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7148
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 802

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, WA, SF
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: VANCE/OWEN MEETING WITH BOTHA

REF: STATE 101584,

1. WHEN I SAW SIR DAVID SCOTT THIS MORNING (APRIL 21),
I FOUND THAT HE HAD JUST COME FROM A MEETING WITH FOURIE
AT WHICH HE, ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE AND WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS,
HAD GONE OVER SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME GROUND AS THAT COVERED
BY REFTEL.

2. I FOLLOWED UP WITH FOURIE THIS AFTERNOON. AS HE HAD
DONE WITH SIR DAVID IN THE MORNING, HE URGED THAT WE GET
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PAGE 02 CAPE T 00802 211643Z

TO HIM AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE SUNDAY MEETING
OF THE FIVE FOREIGN MINISTERS THEIR RESPONSE REGARDING
WITHDRAWAL OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS AND ASSURANCES
TO THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA. HE SAID IT WOULD BE VERY
IMPORTANT TO HAVE THAT RESPONSE BY MONDAY MORNING,
APRIL 24, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. HE HOPED IT WOULD BE
HELPFUL SINCE THERE IS STRONG OPPOSITION IN THE SAG

TO THE WESTERN PROPOSAL. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, THE INTENTION NOW IS FOR BOTHA TO MAKE HIS PRESENTATION TO THE CABINET ON TUESDAY. (AT A DINNER PARTY FOR THE DIPLOMATIC CORP LAST NIGHT, APRIL 20, PIK BOTHA AGAIN EMPHASIZED TO AMBASSADOR SCOTT THE POLITICAL PRESSURE UNDER WHICH HE WAS OPERATING. ACCORDING TO SIR DAVID, BOTHA FORCEFULLY UNDERSCORED HIS NEED FOR A RESPONSE THAT WOULD MEET HIS NEEDS.)

3. WITH REFERENCE TO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE AG AND THE UNSCR, FOURIE CONFIRMED THAT THE MATTER HAD BEEN SATISFACTORILY COVERED AT BOTHA'S HOME LAST SUNDAY. HE COMMENTED THAT STEYN SEEMS QUITE CLEARLY TO UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF THAT RELATIONSHIP AND ITS IMPORTANCE AND THAT HE IS RELAXED ABOUT IT. FOURIE SAID IT IS HIS DISTINCT IMPRESSION STEYN IS CONFIDENT HE CAN WORK WELL WITH AHTISAARI ON THE BASIS OF A CONCERTED MUTUAL EFFORT TO BE REASONABLE.
NELSON

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